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DR. ZIEGLER ON HÆMATOSIS, ITS NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL INDUCTION.

[Continued from page 54.]

THESE effects and phenomena are especially exhibited in numerous degenerate conditions depending upon or associated with deranged states of the blood, particularly from imperfect aeration and arterialization of that fluid, thus causing directly or remotely those more ultimate modifications of the hæmatosic and nutritive processes resulting in abortive or defective development of the solids, as tubercle, scrofula, &c., the tuberculous matter, in fact, appearing to be originally but a mere abortive modification of the albuminous component of the blood. In these and all similar affections, the beneficial effects derivable from the more perfect induction of the hæmatosic changes by a free exposure to, and a due supply of the atmospheric influence and elements, is well known, but not sufficiently appreciated. In the earlier stages of tuberculosis, particularly before the formation and deposition of tuberculous matter, the augmented supply of the necessary chemical elements and additional stimulus, for the greater promotion of hæmatosis and the invigoration of the vital forces, afforded by the nitrous oxide, or even the increased quantity and accelerated appropriation of those of its prototype, the atmospheric air, and probably, also, an artificial preparation analogous to the former, composed of a similar proportion of its elements oxygen and nitrogen, physically associated, will no doubt always speedily modify and correct this tendency and condition. When, however, a mass of tubercle is deposited, and the morbid process for further development and degeneration is in full activity, this, and its analogous agents, through their elements, stimulus, &c., then not only primarily ameliorate the effects of the functional privation of the aerial elements, but, by compensating for the general loss sustained through the organic modification, thus, to a certain extent, remove its existing injurious influences and avert further general and local derangement ; while, at the same time, by additionally promoting general normal action and obviating abnormal tendency, they exert a powerful energy in entirely modifying and removing the existing organic aberration, and in finally correcting the original diathesis.

This is the result of my experience with the nitrous oxide in this affec

tion, having additional evidence to that formerly reported of its highly beneficial effects, not only in the early, but in the more advanced stages, in preventing the full development of this diathesis and the formation of tuberculous matter; and, also, of its removal and correction after its deposition and inception. It is not, however, asserted or expected that when the existence and production of this morbid process and matter is in such great excess as to implicate the general energies and destroy the vital organs so extensively as to prevent the continued operations of the organic processes, this agent, its analogues, or any other agent or combination of means, will be sufficient to restore health or preserve life; though believing that, even where the organic structure and processes are so materially destroyed and deranged as to admit of no possibility of ultimate recovery, the former offer the most natural and effective means for supplying the prominent deficiencies and wants of the economy, the prolongation of existence, and the mitigation of some of the most troublesome and annoying accompaniments of this disorder, as pain, irritation, cough, oppression, &c. Besides, the employment of such agents will not only modify, but obviate and avert the tendency to those frequent complications and concomitants of this affection, exaggerated as they so often are by accidental circumstances, and which ordinarily soon destructively interpose, before the necessary conservative changes can be effected; as it is obvious that it will require, under all plans of treatment, a definite period of time for the removal of such extraneous matters and the full restoration of the healthy processes, especially more protracted, when the organic structure is greatly implicated, the morbid process far advanced, and the general energies much impaired. Therefore, under most circumstances and in all the principal therapeutic respects, these agents—viz., nitrous oxide, its analogous compound of oxygen and nitrogen proportionately but physically associated, and condensed atmospheric air—afford, it is believed, greater prerequisites for the successful treatment, where that is possible, of such conditions, than other medicinal measures, they being viewed in this light, though not strictly so according to the ordinary acceptation of the term, bearing in reality a closer relationship to the more positively hygienic, as food, air in its ordinary state, &c.

These agents are also especially applicable to those cases of simple lassitude and inertia, usually preceding such affections and consequent upon defective hæmatosis and nervous energy from similar primary functional privation of air, arising from living in confined habitations, sedentary habits, depressing mental emotions, &c., which by modifying the respiratory or aeratory processes and the generation of vital energy, so often retard and frequently derange the healthy actions of the economy, and thus immediately or ultimately induce other and more complex functions and organic derangements.

The nitrous oxide, particularly, will also prove highly useful in those instances of rapid and sudden, partial or complete asphyxiation, from the imperfect aeration of the blood and depression or abeyance of the nervous forces, as those of newly-born infants, strangulation, drowning, and in suffocation generally; those conditions previously alluded to differing from these in reality only by being primarily and principally the results

of prolonged moderate privation of atmospheric air—or, in other words, a state of constant partial asphyxiation.

Again, in those other more complete and positive modifications and degenerations of the blood and vital energies, induced by the action of narcotics, and other poisons, as malaria and miasmata, of which the adynamic and ataxic fevers and analogous depraved conditions are a consequence, and those other systemic contaminations arising from the action of corrupt mortuary animal matters, syphilitic virus, diseased and poisonous secretions of animals, as those of rabid dogs, serpents, &c., and in fact all similar depraved and vitiated states of the blood, the nervous and general system, from whatever cause, as well also as those more purely deranged nervous states from excessive stimulation, and the inordinate use of alcohol, opium, tobacco, &c., as delirium tremens, and those conditions depending more exclusively on the failure or privation of cerebral and nervous power, as dementia, paralysis, chorea, &c., the nitrous oxide, by its properties of destroying and counteracting such principles and derangements, through its chemical, physiological, and renovating influences, will, it is believed, always prove an exceedingly energetic and efficient agent of conservation, correction and restoration.

In its apparently more local tendencies, through, however, its general properties and influences, the nitrous oxide also operates with surprising promptness and efficiency, in producing mitigating and curative effects similar to those mentioned in the previous more particular reference to the special derangements of the pulmonary apparatus. In this respect, in its tendency to, and action on, the renal apparatus and function, it is not only unsurpassed, but unequalled, being more certain and reliable as a diuretic than any other known agent, in consequence of its compound property of supplying the prominent chemical elements for the renal secretion, and of generating its solid components, especially urea. In its influence over the processes of which this secretion is a consequence or concomitant, it is somewhat paradoxical, as it not only increases its quantity when deficient, and reduces its proportion when excessive, but improves its quality when defective. This apparent inconsistency is, however, readily explicable on the principle that, by restoring the healthy condition of the blood and equalizing or even increasing the normal components of the secretions generally, and this one especially, it thus modifies deranged, and induces regular or even exalted, normal action. This explanation is sustained by the analogous effects of another remedial agent, of a different character, however, viz., mercury, in its influence over the system generally, and the operations of the liver more especially, in exciting, moderating and correcting the deficient or vitiated action and secretion of that viscus. In fact, excessive, defective or perverted action and secretion generally are probably more frequently a consequence of the previous deficient supply of the material or chemical elements for the formation of the components, or essential prerequisites for the healthy performance of such, and the efficiency or regularity of action necessary to the equality, harmony and perfection of the organic operations and general functions and relations, than is even yet admitted or recognized.

These facts are the result of experience, and easily demonstrable, and

particularly in relation to the latter, by, previous to the administration of the nitrous oxide, determining the partial absence or disproportion of the normal components of the secretions, or the existence in them, that of the renal secretion especially, of extraneous substances, as glucose, for instance, the frequent presence of which in the urine from imperfect aeration of the blood has been demonstrated by Reygnoso, whose observations I have verified so far as I have examined; and then, subsequently to its administration, testing it again. It will be found that these extraneous substances have then disappeared, and the natural components have been restored in their regular or even increased proportion, while, at the same time, the primary affection is either materially modified or has completely vanished, requiring, of course, a shorter or longer period according to the intensity, character and complications of the disorder or derangement, though always more speedy and certain than the means usually employed.

The applications of the nitrous oxide to the derangements implicated or connected with the secretory apparatus, are, therefore, numerous and sufficiently apparent to render unnecessary a more particular reference to them. Still, in consequence of the great importance of the subject, and the firm belief that this agent and its analogues will always prove useful and positively curative in many conditions now not at all or but partially under remedial influence, I will briefly specify, in addition to former general allusions, some of them; and particularly such as are included in, and are related to the lithic diathesis in its most extended connections. Among these I will mention those of the uric, oxalic, lactic, phosphatic and hippuric acids, and the xanthic and cystic oxide diathesis, all of which, though more especially incidental to, or associated with the renal apparatus, are a consequence of deranged action in the general economy, and thus often a direct cause of further local and universal disturbance, as gout, rheumatism, &c. Those connected with other organs, as the concretions of the liver and gall-bladder, composed as they are, frequently and principally, of cholesterin, may also be mentioned; and, finally, those other analogous morbid matters and associations found in different parts of the body, and all of which, doubtlessly, immediately and primarily result from a deficient supply of the chemical elements of this agent, either one or both, as the case may be, necessary to the normal transformation and disintegration of the nutritive materials and tissues, and the ultimate evolution of the healthy excrementitious products of the economy.

The atmospheric air and its analogues, by thus furnishing the requisite elements, oxygen and nitrogen, and inducing and forming the necessary chemical interchange and combination with the systemic hydrogen and carbon, and the metamorphoses of the compound substances of the economy, resulting in other mutations and the consequent development of the primary and ultimate organic products essential to the general and special functions, thus preserve and equalize the universal play, harmony and reciprocal relations of the vital operations, and more positively insure the successful accomplishment of the final objects of existence.

Thus through their general physiological and chemical properties these

agents, and the nitrous oxide more especially, exercise a powerful and *sui generis* influence in promoting the normal assimilative and disintegrative changes indispensable to the due performance of the healthy processes and purposes of animalization, and consequently are especially applicable and useful in correcting the abnormal aberrations of such, so frequently resulting from accidental circumstances, the activity of the various agents and influences existing in nature and the privation of the stimulus and elements of the atmospheric air, encouraged and promoted as they so freely are, by the ignorance, weakness and passions of mankind.

In fact, the range of therapeutic application of the nitrous oxide and that of its analogues, is so extensive that the limits of an ordinary article would barely afford space for a mere nomination of the special derangements; yet as these have been in former publications as well as in the preceding part of this paper generally alluded to, and as I hope, at some future time, to present an extended analysis of the whole subject, with numerous facts in illustration and confirmation of the truthfulness of the principles and views heretofore and herein advanced and advocated, I will only at present continue these observations sufficiently to premise some general remarks on its analogous principles, viz., an artificial compound, consisting of a physical commixture of its elements in similar proportion, or the admixture of an additional quantity of oxygen with the atmosphere, atmospheric air, and oxygen; and then conclude with some comments on its preparation, combination and exhibition, and the general relations of the subject under discussion.

Oxygen is generally considered to be the essential chemical element in the evolution and promotion of organic or life action, and those relatively active agents of which it is a constituent, especially the atmospheric air, and nitrous oxide, as owing their chemico-physiological properties solely to its influence; but as before shown, this does not seem to be the fact, there being a peculiarly-marked and distinctive difference between the action of these several principles. Still there is no doubt of its importance and power, alone or thus associated, in promoting and modifying the organic changes and processes. And it is a singular, it might truly be said, a wonderful circumstance in the history of medicine, that it, and its specially analogous, though compound gaseous bodies, should have been so long and almost completely and universally neglected as salutary and remedial agents in the prevention and rectification of the numerous derangements of these processes, particularly as so many of them have been attributed solely to its privation, and especially as this course is strictly in accordance with nature and reason, to thus supply the existing deficiencies upon which derangement depends, by resorting directly to those agents which are absent, whose presence and influence is required, and whose action is necessary to the perfection of the organic operations and in unison with the laws by which they are incited, sustained and governed.

But as experience has shown that this single agent oxygen separately does not produce those striking and peculiar physiologic and therapeutic influences induced by, and derivable exclusively from both its natural

and artificial, mechanical or chemical combination with nitrogen, as the atmospheric air, nitrous oxide, &c., it seems most natural and reasonable to preferably resort to these compounds for such purposes. These elements, in their natural association, being the active ones in the promotion of the normal organic operations, and their privation the frequent direct and indirect cause of derangement in such, must necessarily be the only or principal ones in their prevention, amelioration and rectification. Yet as many deranged conditions may depend upon the more exclusive deficiency of oxygen than of its associate nitrogen, the proper relation may be obtained and the equilibrium restored by the artificial addition of sufficient of the former to a limited quantity of the atmospheric compound already universally existing, thus forming an artificial physical association of these elements, in similar or greater proportion to that existing in the chemical combination of the protoxide of nitrogen. Still as this physical commixture of these elements does not afford the peculiar chemico-physiologic and therapeutic stimulus and effects directly derivable from their chemical compound in the form of nitrous oxide, nor the more direct action of the nitrogen, where that is desirable, this latter agent is preferable in numerous instances.

[To be continued.]

EXCESSIVE STUDY IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS—MEDALS, &c.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—If I mistake not, you have somewhere, within a few years past, alluded to the subject which heads this article. I am confident it demands still further investigation.

The writer has ever felt the deepest interest in the cause of education. Indeed, this could not well be otherwise, from having been engaged for several years as a practical teacher. He trusts he still feels as much anxiety for the systematic and thorough education of the young, as any of this community; though bound to protest against the *great amount of study* required of pupils in our public schools. He therefore begs leave to call the attention of the readers of the Journal, and also of the Boston School Committee, and the other city officers whose duty it is to manage these schools, with the teachers and parents, to a few *facts*.

Some weeks since, I was called by a lady to visit a sick daughter, aged 10 years. I found a beautiful little girl, complaining of severe pain in the head, with slight feverishness, nausea and vomiting. In short, she had all the symptoms of *hydrocephalus*; and, so far as remedies were concerned, it was a desperate case. Her mother said, "the child had always been ambitious, a hard student, and, usually, at the head of her class; but for the last three months her health had been delicate. She had complained of almost constant headache, and could not remember her lesson. She would cry rather than go to school, because her teacher would keep her after the dismissal of the other scholars; and cry rather than stay at home, because her teacher would then put her down." In a word, she there laid the foundation of a disease

which early carried her to the grave. Her teacher was a kind-hearted lady—visited her in her sickness, and condoled with the family at her decease; but little thought that the requirements under her own *iron laws*, or those who employed her, caused her death. *Yet it was even so.*

Upon referring to my note-book, I find I have been called to treat several other cases of nervous disease, within five or six years past, induced by similar means. One or two of these may be related.

A sprightly, active girl, 13 years old, had been an excellent scholar —one of the first in her school, and had been toiling for a *medal.* She became nervous and highly excitable. *Chorea* followed. She could command neither the use of her feet nor of her right hand. She could not endure the thought of leaving school, for she was almost sure of a medal. Disease, however, compelled her to leave off study, and pursue a course of hygienic and medical treatment. She recovered, but it was many months before she could be called well, or was prepared to commence study again; and it will be years before her health can be fully confirmed.

A gentleman of my acquaintance, five years since, had two fine sons. The elder was strong and athletic, and bore the iron bondage and severe discipline of toiling for a medal and coming fully up to the task of "making brick" in the Boston schools. He won the prize, and had a medal hung around his neck. It did not kill him. But not so with his younger brother. He was naturally of a more nervous and excitable temperament; and, though more feeble physically, he was no less ambitious mentally, than his elder brother. In a word, his health was ruined by excessive study. But not the School Committee and the Teacher alone were responsible; his parents also encouraged instead of checking this ambition. Their language was, "Your brother took the medal, and *you must not fall behind him.*" Thus stimulated, at home and at school, he ruined his health.

Precocious children are most exposed to this evil; and it was among such that infant schools, so common in this country some years since, did no little injury. But as these schools have now been discontinued among us, it is unnecessary to speak more particularly of them.

The ground of our complaint in this matter is, the *tasking all alike.* This is as inconsistent as administering the same medicine for the small-pox and a sore toe; or like the giant's bedstead, fitting but few, and stretching or cutting off many.

Who, that has been in any degree conversant with children, and especially with teaching, does not know that some children can learn in the same time twice as much as others. Who that has a particle of discretion, would think of giving a boy, who could not commit to memory half so fast as another, the same task? And yet, is not such precisely the course pursued in these schools? No allowance is made for the native quickness or genius of one pupil over another. Each must indeed bear his own burden; and the duller, the same as the more acute. But this is not all, though this of itself is sufficiently disheartening to one who is hard to learn. What is still worse is, no allowance can be made upon such a system for indisposition, or for those of slender con-

stitution. There are many of this class, possessed of the finest intellects, the brightest talents and the most sensitive feelings; but they are corporeally unable to apply themselves—"the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." In the beautiful language of the famous "Temperance Tales"—"the sword is too sharp for the scabbard." It is not only unwise, but unjust and cruel, to place youth of this description where they must necessarily compete with those whose clayey tenement is tenfold stronger than their own. It is reproaching the God of nature, who alone has made them to differ. It is placing the feebler in a position where they must inevitably fail of success, and that where the failure will enhance their native sensitiveness (always too great) an hundred fold.

Another objection to our schools, is the unnatural stimuli which are applied to the scholars in the form of *medals*. This looks very plausible in theory, and surely it is a very pleasant thing for a child to get a medal. It encourages *him* and pleases his parents, &c. &c. But we think it does not require great wisdom to discover that this whole system of medal distribution is wrong—"it is evil, and only evil, and that continually."

It is an evil to the *successful* candidate. It stimulates his pride—excites those very feelings and passions which every wise and prudent parent or teacher, who desires to cultivate the heart, finds it the most difficult to suppress. As long as human nature *is human* nature, it will be of little avail for the mayor or the committee-man, as he puts the blue ribbon around the child's neck, to tell him, "This is a distinction of merit, and now, you must not be proud of it, nor think more of yourself than you ought, or less of the unsuccessful scholars than you do of yourself." The intellect which has been fed for months, perhaps years, quickly reasons like the following—"For what have my parents and teachers been stimulating me the year past by constantly urging upon me the importance of gaining a medal? For what have I been laboring all this time? Surely, it cannot be after all to think that I am no more deserving of this prize than others who have not received it. Such a construction would impeach the judgment, if not the uprightness, of the committee. It is true, I know not how to reconcile the exhortations now given with the motives presented while pursuing my studies; but never mind, I will practise upon my own views of the case." The result is, that the youth becomes proud, vain, insolent. He despises the unsuccessful candidates, instead of cherishing sentiments of kindness towards them. This is bad, *very* bad. It has a more pernicious influence upon the *heart*, than all the good the intellect ever received from these false stimuli; and it is the heart which more especially needs cultivating at the present time.

It is productive of evil to the *unsuccessful candidates*. Many of them have labored as zealously, and, by the confessions of the awarding committees themselves, are about as much entitled to a medal as those on whom they have been bestowed. These youth have feelings, hearts, consciences, which must be exceedingly tried on such an occasion. They are often as good judges as the committee, so far as it respects the proficiency of their fellows, and they often see and feel that the rewards must have been bestowed merely out of favoritism. Witness the case

where one of the girls in these schools lately declined the prize, because she was conscious it did not belong to her. The Boston *Post* ascribes to her an angelic nature for this worthy deed. What a pity that such angels must have such temptations *to fall!* And, alas! that the temptations should come from *such a source*—the donors of the medals, the mayor, aldermen, superintendent, school committee, teachers and parents. Would that all the children were such angels as the one here named, for this angelic spirit, thus diffused, would end this evil practice. Under all these circumstances (and others that might be named) the unsuccessful feel exceedingly unpleasant towards their successful classmates, and the committee, and even the whole system. Upon the spur of the occasion, their intellects may have expanded more rapidly than they otherwise would, but it has been at the vast expense of all the benevolent and kind feelings of the heart. All kindness and reciprocity of feeling between those who should be the most intimate, are annihilated by such a system.

It sets the school generally to murmuring and complaining. Let any one witness the wry looks, the sly inuendoes, the out-breaking speech, as the school is dismissed after these *meritorious* rewards have been distributed, and his own eyes will show him enough to convince him that the system is a bad one. What teacher does not know that more, infinitely more, is depending upon the good feelings and kindness of the pupils towards each other, than upon all things else to promote the order, peace and improvement of the school? All this is blasted by the foolish practice of distributing medals. I mean upon the principle on which this distribution is made. And that principle is to stimulate one pupil to outdo another.

It is an injury to the *parents*. If any one doubts it, let him go, a day or two after the examination of the schools and distribution of the medals, and visit the parents of the scholars. If he does not find *ten* dissatisfied, murmuring, complaining and fretting, to one satisfied and pleased, he will make a very different discovery from what the writer of these pages has made. How can it be otherwise? Does any one believe that parents have no feeling or partiality for their own offspring? How many parents are there in the city of Boston, who do not think their children, under the same circumstances and with similar instruction, as much entitled to a medal as those of their neighbors? It is of no avail to say they have an *undue* partiality for their own children—a partiality that needs correcting. This alters not the case. They *have* the partiality, and that is enough. We must take mankind as they are, and act towards them as they are.

The Boston Transcript, in a recent article, consoles a correspondent, who complained because a number of the medals at the late distribution were given to *non-residents* of the city, by assuring him that "the *last medals* to those not residing in the city have been distributed." We wish we could console the citizens of Boston by stating that the *last medals* have been distributed to them; at least till they are distributed upon a different plan than that of stimulation and competition between pupils, unless for punctuality and good deportment.

I have sent these strictures to your Journal, because it seems to be appropriately a *medical* subject; and because you have ever taken ground in favor of everything which is calculated to promote the public *health*. Besides, a number of the Boston School Committee are *physicians*, and all men of sense and judgment, and it is believed they will ere long make improvements as to some of these matters.

In conversing with a member of the committee a few days since, he fully admitted the existence of the fact that there were *too many* studies and *too great an amount* of study in the schools; but added—"these have both been much diminished since Mr. Bishop has been Superintendent of the schools." This is as it should be; but it is apprehended that Mr. B. in this respect has but just *begun* his work. It is earnestly hoped he will live to finish what he has so well commenced. Then we shall see a *greater change* as to the management of these schools. To require a child of from 5 to 10 years of age to sit still and study six hours a day, is outrageous in men of sense and judgment. Here, in our opinion, is often laid the foundation of a feeble constitution for life in those who do not die young or while passing through the ordeal. We may talk of the munificence of our school funds, and the excellence of our public schools, and point the stranger to our palace edifices, &c. All this is very fine—a glory and honor to this land of the Pilgrims, but accompanied with a fearful drawback, a grievous curse, so long as our education *all begins at the wrong end*, the *mind* instead of the *body*.

Boston, Aug. 16, 1853. W. M. Cornell, M.D.

REMOVAL OF A RING FROM A YOUNG LADY'S FINGER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The following case may not be unacceptable to the readers of the Journal.

An interesting young lady, about 17 years of age, had presented to her a gold ring, which she forced over the joints of her middle finger. After a few minutes the finger commenced swelling, and the ring could not be removed. The family physician, Dr. ———, was sent for, but could do nothing. The family, and the young lady especially, were now in the greatest consternation. A jeweller was sent for. After many futile attempts to cut the ring with cutting nippers, and to saw it apart with a fine saw, and after bruising and lacerating the flesh, warm fomentations and leeches were applied, but all without affording the slightest benefit. Dr. ——— requested my presence, with the compliment that "perhaps my mechanical ingenuity might suggest something." I at once proceeded to the house of the patient, and found the young lady in a most deplorable state of mental agony, the doctor embarrassed, and the family in a high state of excitement. I procured some prepared chalk, and applied it between the ridges of swollen flesh, and all round the finger, and succeeded in drying the oozing and abraded flesh; then with a narrow piece of soft linen I succeeded in polishing the ring, by drawing it gently round the ring between the swollen parts. I then ap-

plied *quicksilver* to the whole surface of the ring. *In less than three minutes* the ring was *broken* (by pressing it together) in four pieces, to the great relief of all parties.

In a similar manner (without the chalk) I some time since extracted a small brass ring from the ear of a child, who, child-like, had inserted it into the cavity of its ear. The operation was more painful and tedious, but was equally successful.

The *modus operandi*. The quicksilver at once permeates the metals, *if clean* (with the exception of iron, steel, platina, and one or two others), and amalgamates with them. It immediately crystallizes and renders the metal as hard and as brittle as glass. Hence the ease with which metals amalgamated with quicksilver can be broken. A. C. Castle, M.D.

New York, July 26, 1853.

AUTOPSY OF THE LATE CALVIN NEWTON, M.D. OF WORCESTER, MS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Died, in Worcester, Tuesday, Aug. 9th, Calvin Newton, M.D., after a brief sickness of less than fourteen days. The following is the result of a post-mortem examination of the body, twenty-four hours after death.

Brain.—The dura mater was found unusually adherent to the cranium, so that it was with considerable difficulty the skull was removed. On opening the dura mater there was exhibited a large amount of liquid, of a greenish-white color, and closely resembling that found in inflammation of the other cavities of the serous membranes. The surfaces of the arachnoides appeared to have lost completely their transparence —their shiny aspect. The entire extent of the arachnoid membranes was highly injected, giving a bright-red tinge to the whole surface. The serous fluid appeared to be exterior to the arachnoid of the pia mater, and in the sac of the arachnoid itself, around the encephalon. The pia mater seemed to be but slightly involved in the disease; increased injection of the arteries, with unusual redness, being the only perceptible change in its structure. The same was true of the substance of the brain itself. The base of the skull, and about where the optic nerves cross each other, was filled with an abundant opaline liquid. The membrane which lines the ventricles did not exhibit anything positively morbid in its appearance. The liquid contained in the ventricles was simply serous and nearly transparent.

Lungs appeared perfectly healthy—exhibiting no trace of tuberculous formation whatever. Mucous membrane of the bronchia apparently much congested, but no trace of inflammation was detected. The heart, with its valves, healthy in appearance, but large, and unusually surrounded with fat.

Stomach healthy, and its mucous membrane free from disease. Liver and spleen (the latter weighing 12¾ ounces) manifested no trace of disease. Gall-bladder enormously distended with apparently healthy bile.

The intestinal mucous membrane presented no trace of inflammation throughout its entire extent. Near the ilio-cœcal valve no trace of in-

flammation could be detected, nor ulceration, nor cicatrices in the plates of Peyer, and in the intervals of the clustered follicles, and no apparent enlargement in the isolated or agglomerated follicles. Glands of the mesentery healthy. Kidneys were found deeply imbedded in fat, but perfectly healthy. The bladder was distended with apparently healthy urine; its mucous membrane was found injected with arterial congestion. There were several rounded earthy concretions or ossific deposits, the size of a small pea, about the neck of the bladder.

There was a large mass of extravasated blood in the right inguinal region, lying within the fibres of the internal oblique muscle, and adjoining the peritoneum, extending down the right groin, testicle, &c. This appeared to have resulted from the rupture of one of the small sanguiferous vessels, and to have accumulated very gradually. There was no trace of inflammation or external bruise to account for this extraordinary effusion.

Respectfully yours,

August, 1853. H. F. Johnson.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE—MEDICAL MATTERS IN PARIS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—As the lecture season is about closing, I will devote an hour to giving you a few medical items.

The Lectures of the Faculty of Medicine commence the first of November, and continue till the second week in August; although private instruction continues during the whole year. As the Faculty is composed of twenty-six professors, of course there are various changes among the lecturers during so long a session. One very interesting feature in the medical schools of Paris, is the system of "*concours*;" some account of which may not be devoid of interest to your numerous readers. Having had a fair opportunity, during the past season, to witness how this system is conducted, I will give you a brief account of it. Formerly the professors obtained their appointment by *concours*; now they are appointed by the *Emperor*, but all places below them are determined by this test—such as *agrégés*, *internes* of the hospitals, &c. Agrégés are under-professors—*corps réserve*—kept to fill the places of the professors, if absent or sick; or, in case of death or resignation, to supply their places permanently. During the past season, there have been *concours* in medicine, surgery, anatomy, obstetrics and chemistry. The qualifications of a candidate to be an *agrégé*, are—1st, that he must be French by birth; 2d, 25 years of age; 3d, a graduate as doctor in medicine. The term of *agrégation* is nine years, and the *trials* take place every three and six years; consequently only one half of the places are filled at each *concours*. That is, in medicine there are ten *agrégés*, and five are chosen at each trial; in surgery six, and three are chosen; and so on, in other departments.

As a specimen of the trials, I will select those of medicine and surgery as fair examples of others. In the first place, a series of subjects in medicine, surgery or physiology is selected by the Faculty, and given

to the competitors by lot, who have five hours allowed them to prepare themselves, and who are obliged to speak extemporaneously. Second, subjects in medicine or surgery are given out, upon which candidates are allowed three hours time for preparation, in the presence of one of the judges, with closed doors, and without books. Each candidate has forty-five minutes to speak upon his subject at this trial. Third, subjects medicine or surgery; term of speaking the same, with twenty-four hours' preparation at their own domicile. Fourth, lessons clinique; time the same. Two patients are selected in the hospitals, and each candidate is allowed twenty minutes to examine them; then he is to give his diagnosis, &c., before the judges. Fifth, each candidate receives a subject, upon which he must write and have finished a *thesis* within twelve days (and some of them comprise one hundred and sixty pages). This must be defended against the attacks of two of the competitors—each being allowed thirty minutes. Hence each candidate defends his thesis during one hour, and has the opportunity of making two attacks upon his fellow competitors; in the latter consideration he has three days' grace to prepare himself for the onslaught. The judges are seven in number—composed of five professors of the Faculty, and two *agrégés*. The latter have no voice in the final vote for the successful candidate, unless some one of the former is deprived of being present by sickness or some other unavoidable detention.

The *test* of the *concours* is truly a severe one, and well calculated to measure swords intellectually. For instance, that of medicine, last winter, commenced with over thirty competitors; yet before it was terminated, the number diminished to fourteen, out of which only five could be chosen. The trials are all public; hence, at times, as in the *race*, the feeling "*outside*" is intense, as each candidate, in the estimation of his friends, wins, or falls with the prize almost within his grasp. At some of the sittings I have seen twelve hundred persons present. If a man fails, he has but to try again, when the next concours comes round. It is said that even M. Velpeau failed twice—but, nothing daunted, succeeded at last.

Perhaps it may be said that this system is open to some objections—that those more ready of speech may sometimes appear to greater advantage than others less fluent, yet at the same time more profound in intellect. However this may be, it is certainly superior to any system where "preferment goes by favor." From this hasty sketch you will observe upon what basis these trials are conducted. It was only three or four years since such men as Nélaton and Malgaigne were concouring for professorships. Now they sit in judgment upon others.

In your Journal of May 25, I notice some remarks from the New York Medical Gazette upon the experiments of per-chloride of iron in aneurisms, by Dr. Pravas, of Lyons. Not long since, I saw M. Velpeau, at La Charité, make trial of the remedy in an aneurism upon the left arm of a young man. He injected a few drops, and it coagulated the blood in part, so that the tumor felt somewhat hard. In six or seven days he repeated the experiment; but it did not finally succeed. He then ligated the humoral artery. M. Lenois, at Hôpital Neckar, has used it once,

but without much better success. However, when other cases present, it will be tried again.

M. Bennet, of Lyons, has recently addressed a note to M. Lallemand, upon the employment of the paste of the chloride of zinc in aneurisms. He gives a case where he is using it upon an aneurism in the subclavicular region. It acts as a gradual cautery, destroying and healing, so that several small arteries have been acted upon without producing any hemorrhage. The tumor is nearly consumed, and all seems to promise well. The final result will be given. The idea of using caustics in such cases is not new, but M. B. claims the use of zinc as such.

M. Nélaton, at l'Hôpital des Cliniques de la Faculté de Médecine, operated, one week ago to-day, for stone: the patient, a man. He made the recto-vesical operation—with this exception, that instead of cutting into the bladder behind the prostate, as is usually done in this method, he cut through the prostate itself. As he had diagnosed a very large calculus and several small ones—the latter lying in the prostatic portion of the urethra—he decided on this somewhat novel method. After the patient had been subjected to the influence of chloroform, the anus was readily dilated so as to remain lax, by the fingers, and the operation proceeded in the usual manner. The *lithotome* was used to enter the bladder: in fact, it is preferred by all French surgeons. The largest calculus was nearly round, measuring an inch and a half in diameter. Four smaller ones were also removed, with but little hemorrhage. The anus was not wounded. At this date, patient is doing well. The *great dread* in rectal operations is a permanent fistula.

M. Velpeau has been in the habit, for a long time, of using a solution of sulphate of iron, externally, in erysipelas; and several other surgeons here think much of the collodion. M. Aran, of late, has had the idea of combining the two, in proportions equal by weight. He thinks that the medicinal properties are thus increased, and that, combined, they give a better security to the inflamed skin, from the air and other agents.

Last week, at the Academy of Medicine, a paper was offered, taking the ground that the introduction of the vaccine virus had been the cause of typhoid fever. The *Academy* quietly disposed of it—thinking, perhaps, that the author's *brain* needed *repose*.

Cholera is raging in the East to some extent. At St. Petersburg, July 18, there were 633 patients under treatment, 79 new cases, 31 deaths, and 32 cures. From the intense heat and the absence of rains, the deaths at Calcutta, recently, were 1,100 in two days.

But my hour has expired, and I fear I have already written too much.

Paris, Aug. 1, 1853. Respectfully, A. B. H.

FOREIGN BODY IN THE WINDPIPE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—Thinking the following case may possess sufficient interest, I send it you for publication in your "Journal." The patient—a child a year old—was attacked suddenly, about the middle of last November, with

violent coughing, and a harsh, croupy respiration. I was immediately called, and learned upon inquiry that the mother had given the child a handful of "pea-nuts" to amuse it while she attended to her household duties; and while thus engaged, the coughing, &c., occurred. I became satisfied that a part of a "nut" had entered the windpipe; but as the symptoms seemed to subside, I did little except give an emetic, suspend the child with its head downwards, &c. Forty-eight hours after the accident, symptoms of inflammation of its lungs, of more than ordinary activity, came on, and threatened the rapid destruction of the patient. It having a strong and healthy constitution, I adopted vigorous antiphlogistic measures, under which the more urgent symptoms soon subsided, and in a few days it was apparently as well as ever—was bright and cheerful, except occasional paroxysms of coughing and considerable dyspnœa. A rattling in its windpipe during expiration was audible at some distance, and abundant mucous râles were heard over the whole of the right side of the chest. The dyspnœa became at times distressing. I tried various measures, but without success, not feeling warranted in resorting to tracheotomy. On the morning of the 16th of July, eight months from its introduction, after an unusually severe paroxysm of coughing, the substance was thrown from its mouth a distance of five or six feet, and as it struck the floor, the child pointed to it with its finger, and exclaimed, as if overjoyed at its deliverance, "Dare 'tis, ma!"—And, sure enough, there it was—the half of a pea-nut (with the outer shell removed), measuring three-fifths of an inch in length and about three-fourths of an inch in circumference. The cough and dyspnœa, of course, immediately subsided.

What appears peculiar in this case, is the unusual length of time the foreign body remained in the windpipe, with such a freedom from urgent symptoms, except during the first day or two. For the most of the time the child was bright and playful, as though it experienced no discomfort whatever, and its occasional fretfulness and ill-humor were by no means greater than in most children of that age, in apparently perfect health.

A. H. Thompson, M.D.

Walden, Orange Co., N. Y., July 27, 1853.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 24, 1853.

Treatment of Deafness.—Less is known of the causes which impair or destroy the sense of hearing, than most medical writers or professed aurists are willing to admit. In the first place, the structure of the internal ear is very complicated, its minute anatomy being understood by few practitioners. So extremely small are some of its winding tubes, that a hair cannot be admitted; and within those, there are membranous tubes, still smaller. Further to increase the complication of the mechanism, the cord of a nerve is threaded, and perhaps kept equi-distant from its immediate sheath by a fluid, upon the presence of which depends the utility of the organ. This,

however, is but the beginning of the internal auditory apparatus; and yet men have the presumption to speak of the cause and seat of deafness, as though they could actually inspect its exact abnormal locality. It is pretty much in this specialty, as was said by a medical writer formerly respecting medicine generally, that there were but four methods of treating diseases, let them be what they might, viz.—by bleeding, purging, vomiting and blistering. Whatever is done for alleviating deafness, in this age of science—and we record it for the consideration of after-times—consists chiefly in syringing the external meatus, penetrating the Eustachian tube, or in topical applications which are usually quite as injurious as beneficial.—There are more deaf people among us than formerly. The population has become large in our cities, and the causes which operate injuriously upon the ear, in the way of loud noises in confined places, are multiplying. The going suddenly from one degree of temperature to another, especially by those with an hereditary tendency, may also be ranked among the causes. Some years since, we instituted an inquiry among one of the tribes of Indians at the West, to ascertain the extent of deafness among them. They actually laughed at the idea of having a pair of ears without being able to hear. There was not a deaf man in the tribe, and many of them had never seen one. A similar research was conducted both in Asia and Africa, among the Arabs with whom we had intercourse; but a deaf person was unknown to those open-air wanderers. It is certain, therefore, that impaired hearing and deafness appertain to a state of civilization. But we need not trace further the conditions of life in which the misfortune occurs, as we are more interested in discovering what relief has been found for it. Electricity, in a partial paralysis of the acoustic nerves, would seem appropriate; but oils, syringes, vesications, leeches, douches, &c. &c., which are now the sum of the treatment, effect nothing, and the patient, after using them, becomes a ready prey for quacks, and a patron of nostrum-mongers. Under these circumstances, the field is open for the practice of some new method, yet to be discovered. Our object, in these remarks, is to quicken the efforts of our medical brethren in this direction. Some bold, intelligent, ingenious surgeon may yet succeed in discovering better remedies than any now known. No man could fail of securing a reputation and its accompaniments, by opening the ears of the deaf.

Treatment of Yellow Fever.—Books, pamphlets, historical documents, &c., abound, quite beyond our ability or disposition to enumerate, on this never-ending topic, yellow fever, about which physicians seem almost to have agreed to forever disagree. By the time a few more millions of men have been swept away by it, and the commerce of great cities ruined, it is possible theoretical remedies may be laid aside, and some method of treatment substituted for saving the sick. We are inclined to the opinion, which has been quite openly expressed by others, that yellow fever has been mismanaged. At a time when scarlet fever had carried off many children in the city of Boston, some years since, a medical gentleman quite resented the remark of another, that the profession did not seem to understand the treatment of the malady. "What evidence can you adduce, sir," was asked, "to warrant such a remark?" "The grave yards," was the prompt reply. The burial fields of New Orleans afford melancholy proof of the inutility of any system of practice resorted to, and hence the propriety of pursuing new measures for the future. As far as we have been able to ascertain,

those for whom nothing was attempted, lived quite as long as others, by their side, who were dosed perpetually, even by the most skilful of the craft. This led to encouragement and trials by the homœopathists, the result not having yet been reported. No doubt, however, if any recover under that treatment, they would have been equally favored had they taken nothing at all.

Editorial Bickerings.—Some people are happiest when they are the most miserable. It is a sad misfortune to be constituted in a way to always feel troubled for the sins of others. Such individuals are well satisfied with themselves, but they suffer on account of the supposed stupidity, perverseness or illiberality of certain persons who refuse to listen to their admotions, care nothing for their rebukes, nor stand in fear of their frowns. We could, if so disposed, be in a perpetual quarrel, in our editorial capacity, with certain fault-finding gentlemen, belonging to the class alluded to, who are figuring of late in a small way as conductors of periodicals, and who are in constant trouble respecting something connected with this Journal; but there would be no glory in warring with them, neither have we the least disposition to do so, and we shall therefore let them exhaust their wrath in the manner most agreeable to themselves. The Journal is intended as a vehicle of medical intelligence, and will never be perverted to purposes of personal and petty quarrels, or be made an instrument for engendering feuds or propagating party or private jealousies. We have no individual prejudices to indulge, no ill will to gratify, nor a wish to interfere with the business, the prospects, or even the ambitious desires of others. Nor, if we had all these, need our readers fear that space would be occupied in these pages for the public exhibition of them. Those, therefore, who occasionally take delight in throwing a fire brand at us, will only burn their own fingers. The world is large enough for us all; and it will be found easier and more profitable in the end to step aside, if we are in each other's way, than to fight for an inch of ground which we do not need, and which we could not use if we had.

Tall, Short, and Fat Females.—At Concert Hall, in this city, at the time of writing, three females are on public exhibition, who are, individually, curiosities.

Miss Sarah M. Norton, a native of Pennsylvania, seventeen years of age, is *seven feet, four and a half inches in height!* and not yet as fully developed as she may be hereafter. The chest is narrow and flat, her head of good size, arm full and round, with, probably, a short body and long lower limbs. Neither of her parents are above the medium height. Whether the brothers and sisters, all younger than herself, are to be similarly elongated, remains to be asce.tained.

Mrs. Ellen Briggs, slightly over *thirty-one inches in height*, is finely proporiioned, with a broad chest, a good face, and an agreeable expression. She is about thirty-two years old, and is the mother of three children, two sons and a daughter. They were pigmies at birth, but have a fair prospect of reaching the ordinary dimensions. Mrs. Briggs nursed her children. She attained her growth at nine years, and has remained stationary ever since, for which no cause can be rationally assigned. Her parents, as well as brothers and sisters, were of ordinary altitude.

Lastly, Miss Emma Taylor, from Missouri, a child, seven years old,

weighs *two hundred and nine pounds.* She is a child in character and feeling, with a cheerful face and considerable activity. Time alone can unfold her destiny in the matter of size, which appears now to be gradually on the increase.

Neither of these remarkable persons is suffering from disease, unless it be the last mentioned, the tendency of whose body is to appropriate to itself whatever enters the stomach.

Medical Herald of Madrid.—A supplement to No. 31 of the Herald, under date of June 2d, which is in the form of half a newspaper, indicates more vitality on the subject of medical science in Spain, than is generally supposed to exist in that country. It is full of the idea of rearing a monument to the memory of Orfila. Besides what the editor says on his own account, he has collected the expressions of the press generally, and a monument he is quite determined to have in the good city of Madrid. A part of this enthusiasm is due to the circumstance that the great Orfila was a Spaniard. Those wishing to subscribe for *El Heraldo Medico,* which is devoted to medicine, surgery and pharmacy, must direct to Prof. Gutierrez de la Vega.

Medical Reporter.—Pennsylvania bids fair to have as many medical journals as schools of medicine. The first number of a new Quarterly, with the above title, under the editorial management of five medical gentlemen, and published at West Chester, has a fine appearance. The pages are principally filled with a transcript of the doings of the profession in West Chester and Delaware Counties—and therefore local in its character; but nevertheless, on account of the cases detailed, valuable to medical readers in any latitude or longitude. The committee of publication will very soon discover that there are thorns in their path. Some men are excellent patrons of a journal while it is constantly heralding their praises; but if anything runs counter to their schemes of personal ambition, editors become monsters to be avoided and decried.

Organic and Physiological Chemistry.—We have received a copy, reprinted from the Journal at New Orleans, of our learned friend Dr. Dowler's bibliographical remarks and reflections on Prof. Carl Lowig's Organic and Physiological Chemistry. Dr. D. is a powerful writer. There are neither hacknied thoughts nor borrowed ideas in anything that flows from his skilful pen. We consider him the most original physiological experimenter of the day. As a philosopher, a critic, and a commentator on the elaborations of others, he stands alone, without a rival. As this paper has already been before the public in a well-known periodical, it is unnecessary for us to say more of it here.

Hospitals for the Insane.—An important modification of the present system of treating the insane is strongly urged by those conversant with the subject, which may lead, it is thought, to important results. The plan is to have institutions exclusively for each of the sexes; males by themselves and females by themselves. Whether it is contemplated to have one at one end of the State and the other at the other end, we are not informed. What kind of pernicious influences the sexes exert upon each other, pent

up in the extreme wings of a modern asylum, is beyond our comprehension; and for that reason, an explanation of the special benefits that may accrue from sending the masculine lunatics to Dan and the feminine to Beersheba, would be gratifying to us, and might be instructive to legislative bodies, who must necessarily be called upon for both law and money, before the plan can be carried out. Without being opposed to progress in any department of humanity, there is a satisfaction in knowing precisely the why and wherefore, when a great project is entertained.

Theory and Practice of Medicine.—A new work will be published at Columbus, Ohio, early in October, from the pen of Dr. I. G. Jones. It is to contain his lectures at the Eclectic School of Cincinnati, and seems intended to be a complete exponent of the system of medicine advocated by a large number of practitioners at the West.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Stephen W. Williams of Deerfield, Mass., a distinguished physician, is about removing to Rockford, Illinois.—Dr. S. G. Armor, of Millersburg, late occupant of the chair of Physiology and Pathology in the Cleveland Medical College, and Professor of Chemistry and Philosophy in the Iowa Collegiate Institute, has been appointed to the Chair of Physiology and Pathology in the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati.—The last accounts bring fearful intelligence of the ravages of pestilence and fever in Astraband, Mazraderam, and the Turcoma Desert. In one province, the deaths from cholera number 150 daily. The Shah and court have fled to Imama.—Subscriptions are still going on for a monument to Dr. Jenner. As in all other cases where money is needed and is to be obtained by appealing to the sympathies or patriotism of the people, the United States have furnished a full proportion. The following sums have been acknowledged by the Committee :—Collected, United States of America. £339 12s. 8d.; Russia, £100; Great Britain and Ireland, £153 2s. 5d.—Dr. Dwight Nims, whose appointment as postmaster was mentioned in the Journal a few weeks since, resides at Homer, Michigan, instead of the town of that name in New York State.—The unfinished writings of the late Dr. Morrow, of Ohio, are to be published.—Nine brothers by the name of Tomlinson, of Clermont County, Ohio, have committed suicide. The last of them was the Rev. Dr. Tomlinson.—A writer in the Picayune traces the yellow fever, that now desolates New Orleans, to the men who discharged the cargo of the ship Adelaide, from Rio Janeiro. He says three successive gangs employed upon that job sickened. He contends that every epidemic of that sort can be traced to importation.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Papers on Hemorrhage from Extraction of Teeth, and Treatment of Spinal Curvature, have been received.

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, Aug 20th, 126. Males, 73—females, 53. Accidents, 4—apoplexy, 1—asthma, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—disease of the bowels, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—congestion of the brain, 1—consumption, 9—convulsions, 5—cholera infantum, 8—cholera morbus, 14—croup, 2—cancer, 2—colic, 1—dysentery, 3—diarrhœa, 2—dropsy, 1—dropsy in the head, 5—infantile diseases, 7—erysipelas, 1—typhus fever, 1—typhoid fever, 2—scarlet fever, 1—hooping cough, 2—disease of the heart, 3—hemorrhage, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—marasmus, 5—measles, 9—old age, 4—peritonitis, 1—palsy, 1—spine disease, 1—sunstroke, 9—teething, 10—thrush, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 66—between 5 and 20 years, 8—between 20 and 40 years, 28—between 40 and 60 years, 14—over 60 years, 10. Born in the United States, 83—Ireland, 36—British Provinces, 1—Sweden, 1—Germany, 2—Scotland, 1—France, 1—England, 1—Denmark, 1.

Irritable Stomach.—"In attacks of cholera morbus especially, but often in the progress of febrile diseases, the stomach is so irritable that it is impossible for it to retain any medicine. Dr. Bell, of Louisville, had suggested, under such circumstances, the application of a large dry cup, a tumbler for instance, on the pit of the stomach. We have had this fail, while we regard it a remedy entitled to great confidence. We asked Dr. Robertson, what plan, if any, would always compel the stomach to tolerate medicine. He replied that the stomach was disposed to be more refractory in cholera morbus than in any other disease, and that in his early practice he had known patients lost from this cause alone; that 100 drops of laudanum at a dose, without any other medicine, would relieve any case of cholera morbus that he had ever been called on to treat, and for a great number of years he had compelled the stomach to retain that dose in this disease. This he accomplished by grasping the little finger of his patient, and forcibly and *painfully* flexing the third phalanx upon the second. The medicine was swallowed while the grasp was firmly retained, which was continued for a few moments afterwards. 'They have tried to knock me down,' said the venerable physician, 'but I defied them to throw up the medicine.'"—*Nashville Journal Med. and Surg., June*, 1853.

We would respectfully add to the above prescriptions for the distressing affection mentioned, that in cases where every thing else had failed in our hands, we have found the happiest effects from good champagne wine and ice. Let a tumbler be half filled with crushed ice, and fully covered with the wine, and drunk as soon as it is cold. It will be found exceedingly grateful and very apt to be retained. We have applied it in the advanced stages of cholera morbus, the protracted vomitings of bilious and yellow fever, and the irritable stomach of pregnancy, with the happiest effects. This remedy is quite familiar to many physicians in New Orleans.—*N. Orleans Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Strychnia in Impaired Spinal Energy.—Dr. Marshall Hall believes that this condition is due to causes of nervous exhaustion, such as excessive study, muscular effort, and sexual indulgence, and has found strychnia useful in correcting it. He gives minute doses thrice daily, for many months, in the midst of meals. The following formula may be used: ℞. strychniæ acetatis, gr. j.; acidi acetici, gtt. xv.; alcoholis, ʒ ij.; aqua destillatæ, ʒ vj. M. Dose, ten drops, containing one-fiftieth of a grain. The remedy acts on the spinal marrow, and is counter-indicated in cases of *irritation* of the nervous centre and of spasm.—*London Lancet.*

Iodized Oil.—℞. Iodinii, grs. xxx.; olei amygdalæ, ℔. ij. Triturate the iodine with a small quantity of oil in a porcelain mortar; when it is well divided, add the rest of the oil: the solution being complete, apply gentle heat. The color gradually diminishes and the process is suspended, and the oil allowed to stand for eight hours. This formula, taken from the *Repertoire de Pharmacie* (Vol. ix., p. 31), resembles that of M. Personne, recommended by the Academy of Medicine as affording an excellent substitute for cod-liver oil. It is readily assimilated, and patients take it without disgust.—*Virginia Med. and Surg. Journal.*

The library and scientific instruments of the late Dr. Pereira, F.R.S., were lately sold by public auction in London. Most of the lots realized very high sums, in some cases more than the publishing prices.